

Outgoing  
M/001/0027

Peter Brinton &lt;peterbrinton@utah.gov&gt;



## Pearl Queen Perlite (M/001/0027) - summary of cheatgrass control recommendations

2 messages

**Peter Brinton** <peterbrinton@utah.gov>

Wed, Oct 14, 2015 at 10:51 AM

To: "Andrea M. Antillon" <AAntillon@rcflp.com>, Ed Ginouves <eginouve@blm.gov>, Kelly Rollins <rtrucking@scinternet.net>

Cc: Lynn Kunzler <LYNNKUNZLER@utah.gov>, Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>, Oren Gatten <orengatten@namineservices.com>

In our conference call on August 25, 2015, we discussed acceptable cheatgrass control methods for cheatgrass growing on Schoo areas and possible Pearl Queen road areas graded in 2014. Here is a summary of the Division's recommendations with some additional information after discussing with our biologists here.

The discussed options were based on the understanding that cheatgrass is a 'winter annual', which means that it germinates in the fall, and must go through a winter (cold/frost) period in order to produce viable seed. While cheatgrass seed will germinate in the spring, the resulting plants won't produce the seed. (Lynn says that this is why there aren't cheat grass problems in southern states.)

One acceptable control method is to mechanically uproot cheatgrass by ripping infested areas (on the contour where at all possible) using either a dozer with narrowly-spaced shanks or a heavy-duty cultivator designed for rocky conditions. Before ripping the cheatgrass-covered surfaces, the Division recommends waiting for about a week after a storm to allow for cheatgrass seed to germinate and for soils to dry. Ideally (at least for cheatgrass control), precipitation doesn't immediately follow ripping, either, so that mostly-uprooted plants can dry out. Broadcast seeding with the approved seed mix should occur immediately following (or simultaneous with) mechanical uprooting of cheatgrass. Unless cheatgrass has already germinated and begun to grow, this method would be less effective in reducing cheatgrass cover and spread.

Spraying germinated and growing cheatgrass with an appropriate herbicide would also be effective. Wait until after germination (late October/early November) and spray with round-up. Seeding could take place the next week, but you would still need to do something to break up the surface crusting such as using a harrow or, if you have access to a band of sheep, run them over the area after seeding. Use of Plateau herbicide is also effective, but one drawback is that it also negatively affects the establishment of forage kochia.

If convenient, burying any cheatgrass areas with at least 4-6 inches of clean fill would also serve to reduce cheatgrass cover in 2016.

If broadcast seeding, there is no need to harrow or drag the area if the seed is broadcast onto loose, freshly ripped seedbed. If ripping does not occur, then you need to drill seed or use a sheep-foot imprinter (or run a band of sheep over the area after seeding).

Previous successful revegetation efforts at the Pearl Queen pit area involved spreading composted manure at the site at a rate of at least 5 tons per acre. If applied, composted manure would need to be ripped or cultivated after application.

With advance notice, I should be able to be at the site to observe the work. Remember to document your work and send a brief summary to the Division, including:

- surface conditions and surface preparation/roughening,
- nature of seedbed (rocky, fines, etc)
- areas seeded,
- copies of your seed tags (including seeded species and rates),
- seeding methods and equipment,
- date(s) of surface preparation and seeding,
- any photos, and



- any other pertinent conditions at the time of seeding.

Thanks. Let us know if you have questions.

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**Peter Brinton** <peterbrinton@utah.gov>  
To: Mike Bradley <mbradley@utah.gov>

Wed, Oct 14, 2015 at 10:52 AM

Forgot to cc you.

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Peter Brinton  
Environmental Scientist/Engineer III  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
Office Phone: **801-538-5258**  
Days: M - Th, Every Other Friday  
Hours: 8:00am - 5:30pm